

MIDLAND MAIL

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDLAND (GB) POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Number 175 August 2012

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome two new members –

Dr Simon Iredale of Albrighton, Shropshire whose collecting interests include : Letters (preferably entire) in his local area but extending to Staffordshire, Birmingham and Herefordshire.

Mr Howard Fisher of Keyworth, Nottinghamshire whose collecting interests are France to 1950 particularly the Merson Issues – French P.H. pre WWII. and Nottinghamshire P.H.

NEXT MEETING

This will be an all day meeting held in conjunction with the Birmingham Philatelic Society on 8th September 2012 at St Germain's Church Hall, City Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Our member, Ian Baker, is traveling from Scotland to give a display at this meeting and it is hoped that as many members as possible will be there. Full details about lunch arrangements are enclosed, members requiring lunch are asked to return the order slip so that adequate catering arrangements can be made. (There will be a some extra provided for anyone attending on the day who was unable to book beforehand.)

MARCH MEETING

This was held at the Collingwood Centre, Great Barr, in association with the Streetly P.S. Fair on the 3rd March. The theme of the members one board displays` being Newspaper Wrappers and/or Postal Stationery, As usual a wide variety of material was shown and the usual interpretation of `one board`` was seen.

Mick Gill opened the proceedings with a selection of postal stationery to and from Newark together with a series of covers to and from Scotland (North Britain) but also one coming to South Britain from Scotland. A 2d Mulready letter sheet from Newcastle-under-Lyme addressed to Sir Edward French Bromhead the uncle of Edward Bromhead awarded the V.C. for his part in the defense of Roukes Drift and portrayed by Michael Caine in the film Zulu. Amongst other Nottinghamshire marks shown were Worksop, Ollerton and Southwell.

Alan Marshall showed a selection of 1/2d brown newspaper wrappers comprised of 2 to Germany and 2 to Holland 1884-94. 3 1/2d green wrappers for Nottingham local delivery and 1 from London. A 1/2d brown wrapper had been uprated with an 1/2d surcharge adhesive to Rotterdam redirected to Hamburg. Two 1/2d orange embossed enveloped showed an 1890 squared circle cancel, an 1870 1d pink embossed envelope of the `Robin Hood Rifles` and 2 Book Post 1872 and 1909 items.

Richard Farman stressed how difficult it was to find the rates for posting newspapers overseas, and appealed to any member who knew where this information could be found to let him know. He showed a wide variety of destinations and uprated charges, Such as Maritius uprated a penny halfpenny, Naval ships appear to have been 1d. any where in the world, New Zealand only one uprated 1/2d. penny rate to Java, unable to find any information about Australia, 3d uprated to Denmark, Argentina 1d, other destinations included the Danish West Indies, Russia. Next came postal stationery cards including a card to Cuba and from the Moravian Church Missionary Society to Antiga. Finally he showed a label for Milwards Needles and Fish Hooks with instructions to MUST BE KEPT VERY DRY on the back of which is a sheet entitled Curiosities of Literature showing a world wide selection of covers from people who should have used Milward's products!

Eric Lewis displayed an interesting selection of literature detailing Price's candles including price lists, a wrapper bearing their trade mark, one of their products -Palmitine Candles. Also included were items such as receipts, special event items and other candle related material. An illustration of the Trade Marked wrapper is shown elsewhere.

Steward Geddes treated us a tour of the South Wales Dockland with items from Newport Docks, Bute, Swansea and Barry Docks. He also showed a wrapper from Abergavenny and a postal stationery card cancelled on the first day of Second Class postage at Colmore Circus Post Office, Birmingham.

Paul Bradshaw confessed he did not have any Newspaper Wrappers so had brought a selection of postal stationery items from Northamptonshire. These items included a Mulready from Northampton to St Neots, a 2d envelope to the Dean of Peterborough Cathedral, this was amongst several 2d pink envelopes shown, a 2d Mulready to Walford and an Invoice from Daventry due for delivery of Newspapers.

Chris Jackson bemoaned the scarcity of newspaper wrappers from Worcestershire and showed one of the only two he had found. This was from Redditch to Germany. Amongst the postal stationery he showed a complete Reply Postcard from Worcester Bowling Green, a matched pair of 2d Mulreadys Worcester with a black maltese cross and Worcester with a red maltese cross. Next came an unusual if not unique series of receipts for money sent between post offices, these were centered on High Cross and a variety of villages in that area.. An illustrations of this item is included in Midland Mail.

Guy Bridges showed postal stationery including a 2d registered envelope from Shrewsbury to Shrewsbury, 1d pink envelope addressed to Llangollen in Wales uprated 2d sent registered and received a Chester Station backstamp, another item was from Shrewsbury to Saxony. He then showed stationery used at the Post Office. Telegrams included one from Ross to Shrewsbury together with the envelope it was delivered in. An 1898 telegram from Pride Hill, Shrewsbury to College Hill, Shrewsbury, just across the bridge, and it reads "Can see you here today cannot go to Shrewsbury". More telegrams followed including Greetings telegrams.

Roy Summers concluded the first half of the afternoon with Wolverhampton Penny Post which he admitted was poor strike but added the rider that all Wolverhampton Penny Post covers had poor strikes. He also showed a selection of Mulreadys from Wolverhampton.

(It is here I have to offer members an apology. During Roy's display and second half of the afternoon my trusty tape recorded failed to be trusty and suddenly went haywire. I am therefore reliant on my very sketchy notes - apart from the display by Alan Marshall who wrote a summary of his display.)

It has been suggested that in future everyone giving such displays hands me a brief summary of the display for inclusion in Midland Mail in order to ensure a fair report being given. This has been done by several members who gave displays at Worcester. I would appreciate your co-operation in this.

Alan Marshall's second display was a display of mint Queen Victoria 1/2d green wrapper, 1/2d brown post card and a 1/2d orange book post. Selection of mint envelopes all carrying various single and double embossed stamps (1 with a Stanley Gibbons embossed flap). A pair of 1/2d pink Queen Victoria 1877 and 1880 Certificates of Posting and a Uniform Penny Postage Jubilee envelope with card.

In the second set of displays a great deal of overseas mail was shown, destinations including Brazil, India, Mauritius, German and U.S.A, featured including an unused wrapper to New Zealand. Bills from a well known brewery with 1 1/4d charge accompanied by a variety of ways making postage up to 1 1/4d.

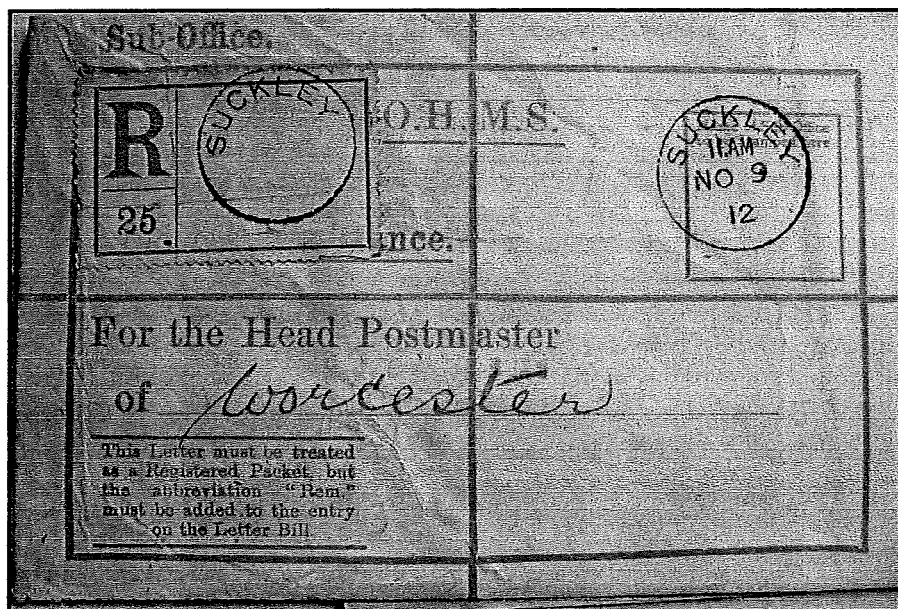
We also saw a series of wrappers from Leamington to Lozells Road, Birmingham, with a selection of squared circle cancels, another wrapper addressed to Switzerland and uprated with 1/2d vermillion again cancelled with a squared circle. Next came postal stationery including the UPP Jubilee Envelope again

cancelled with the Leamington squared circle, the postcard inside (unfortunately unused). This was followed by a selection of postal stationery postcards mainly from Leamington and some penny brown postcards from Redditch to Alcester

A most enjoyable afternoon was spent by all present with a wealth of material on view.



2d Mulready from Newcastle-under-Lyme addressed to Sir Edward French Bromhead



Envelope used to send vouchers and other communications from Sub-office to Head Office

Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held on 5th May 2012 at St. Germain's Church Hall, City Rd., Birmingham. There were 30 members present and apologies were received from Mick Gill, John Soer, Bill Hicks and Tom Plowright.

The minutes of the AGM held on 7th May 2011 were accepted as correct and Richard Farman proposed their adoption. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

Chairman's Report

Mel Matthews reported another successful year with much to think about. We are grateful to Richard Farman for producing such an interesting and varied programme and for organizing the Annual Dinner in Burton. The display by Max Smith on 'Mail to and from India' after the dinner was inspirational and kept us all awake and interested. We were privileged to have such interesting display as those provided by Maurice Palmer on 'The Boer War', and Derek Smeathers on 'Northants in WWII', at the meeting held in Northampton. We thank Derek Smeathers for organizing this meeting and arranging the venue. The display by Guy Bridges on 'Shrewsbury Postal History' was well received and Alan Mashall's Presidential Display on 'The City of Nottingham and Shire' provided a new and novel way of looking at an area of interest.

Once again the One Board Displays proved to be very popular, with so many members providing material that the Chairman's problem was ensuring members kept to the rules. Thank you Richard.

The production of the new County Catalogue is proving to be a long and rocky road, with the County Editors meeting on several occasions, but we must thank Chris Jackson and John Soer for their efforts, and John Calladine for looking to complete the task. I'm sure you would wish me to thank Martin Scroggs for all his work in the background.

We are pleased with the Update of the Straight Line Book, made possible by the work of Bob Viney, assisted by John Calladine.

We have been well served by Mike Gill in his capacity as Secretary. He has a firm grip on Society affairs and all his work is immaculately presented. We are also grateful for his work in updating the Society Library Catalogue.

After a few early hiccups Sadie Cole has now settled in as Editor of the Midland Mail and she continues to produce a splendid magazine. As always she is grateful to the membership for providing copy and hopes that contributions keep rolling in.

Financial affairs continue to be well maintained by our long time Treasurer Eric Lewis and we are pleased to be in a strong position.

Once again the Auction was a great success, with most of the preliminary work being done by Eric Lewis, preparing the material and Chris Jackson producing the catalogue. The auction team on the day did a great job because they knew what they were doing.

I thank all the County Editors, who do a wonderful task ensuring our records are up to date.

Finally I must thank all the members of the Society who regularly attend meetings, give displays, and provide the backbone for the Society. On a personal note a special thank you to our President, Alan Marshall, who has acted as Chairman on several occasions.

Eric Lewis reported on the Society's financial position and in view of the sound position outlined in the balance sheet he proposed that the subscription remained at £10 p.a. The adoption of this was proposed by Malcolm Allison

Copies of the Balance Sheet were available to all attending the meeting and if anyone unable to attend would like a copy these are available from the Editor.

Eric was thanked for his report and the adoption of the accounts was proposed by Richard Farman and seconded by Roy Summers. There were no objections.

Sadie Cole admitted that the last 12 months had been a steep learning curve. Having produced 4 editions of Midland Mail, helped by new computer software she hoped the next year would be easier. She had queried whether it would be better and more in line with other Societies publications if the number of issues was cut from 5 to 4. This suggestion is under consideration.

She thanked John Soer for his help and encouragement, together with other members of the Committee. She is particularly grateful to all members who send contributions to Midland Mail and hope this will continue. A suggestion has been made and has been taken up by several members that members giving both major and one board displays let the editor has a summary of the display to enable accurate reporting.

Acting Coordination Editor's report was given by John Calladine who reported as follows.

I resumed my old role as Coordinating Editor in mid-November, grateful for the work that my immediate predecessor, John Soer, had done on the current Society project, an updated Midlands Edition of the British County Catalogue of Postal History. It is inevitable that, since then, the coordinator's task has been dominated by this project.

Happily, I am not working alone because, apart from the obvious contributions from the County Editors, I am still having help from John Soer when it is requested and Martin Scroggs has assumed a lion's share of the overall effort. He has obtained the expensive InDesign computer program, used by the best publishers to assemble their books, and is adapting the work I forward to him to make use of this clever program. Those who think that production of a Society publication is very much a part time job might be interested to hear that, at the last count, I had exchanged 1,000 emails with Martin and the best part of 400 with John. (Most related to the project.)

Last year a member enquired when we might expect the new book to appear. One is tempted to quote, not for the first time, the words of David Beech, curator of Philatelic Collections at the British Library, who, at a symposium on the production of philatelic books and articles, I attended a couple of years ago, emphasized the universal truth that "a book takes as long as it takes". In a Society such as ours Society, work on a cooperative project is voluntary and there are no sanctions to apply, or that I would want to apply, to an editor who doesn't provide it. We have to proceed at the pace of the slowest, hoping, by frequent contact and gentle persuasion, to get what we need from those who are unable or unwilling to work at a faster pace. By the next County Editors meeting late in July, I hope that all the County Editors' contributions to the project will be complete. It can be a hope, it can be an expectation but, in reality, it cannot be an assumption.

In the past, while I have been Coordinating Editor, every project we have worked on has produced a successful publication. So will this one and it will be a good publication, with more information and better information than any BCC volume preceding it. I offer no hostage to fortune but, if you wish for a hint I do hope to be able to offer to the Society, for the second time, my retirement from the post of Coordination Editor at the next AGM.

There was no Publicity Officer's report.

The ABPS report was given by Alan Godfrey. He reported that efforts were being made to keep down increased costs. That Capitation Costs was £1.50 per member. The Federation website was now up and running where full details of the AGM and other information was available.

The Officers as listed in the programme remain in post with the exception that Martin Scroggs takes over as Librarian from Eric Lewis.

Alan Godfrey was re-elected as Examiner of Accounts.

Richard Farman gave a brief outline of next seasons programme, months and venues remain basically as 2011 with exception of September which will be at St. Germain's Church Hall. The full programme will be included with the next Midland Mail.

The Editor announced some disappointment with number of entries for the Jon Baker Trophy but said that the vast majority of votes was given to Brian Atkins for this article "The Travels of Miss Orde"

Finally it proposed that Ian Baker be appointed Joint Birmingham Editor with Eric Lewis. This was proposed by John Calladine and approved by all.

This closed the meeting and after a short break the Annual Auction took place.

ANNUAL AUCTION

There was some brisk bidding for several lots with many lots going well above their estimates. Lots 1 and 2 giving the auction a good start with both lots fetching in excess of £100

The Society's thanks are due the Auction Team of Chris Jackson, Eric Lewis and Alan Godfrey, not to forget Sharon and Jonathan who worked hard handing out lots to keep up with the bidding. Special thanks are due to Richard Farman who took over at short notice as Auctioneer due to Chris Jackson being unable to carry out his usual function. The Society owes a debt of thanks to all who prepare and work on this annual event.

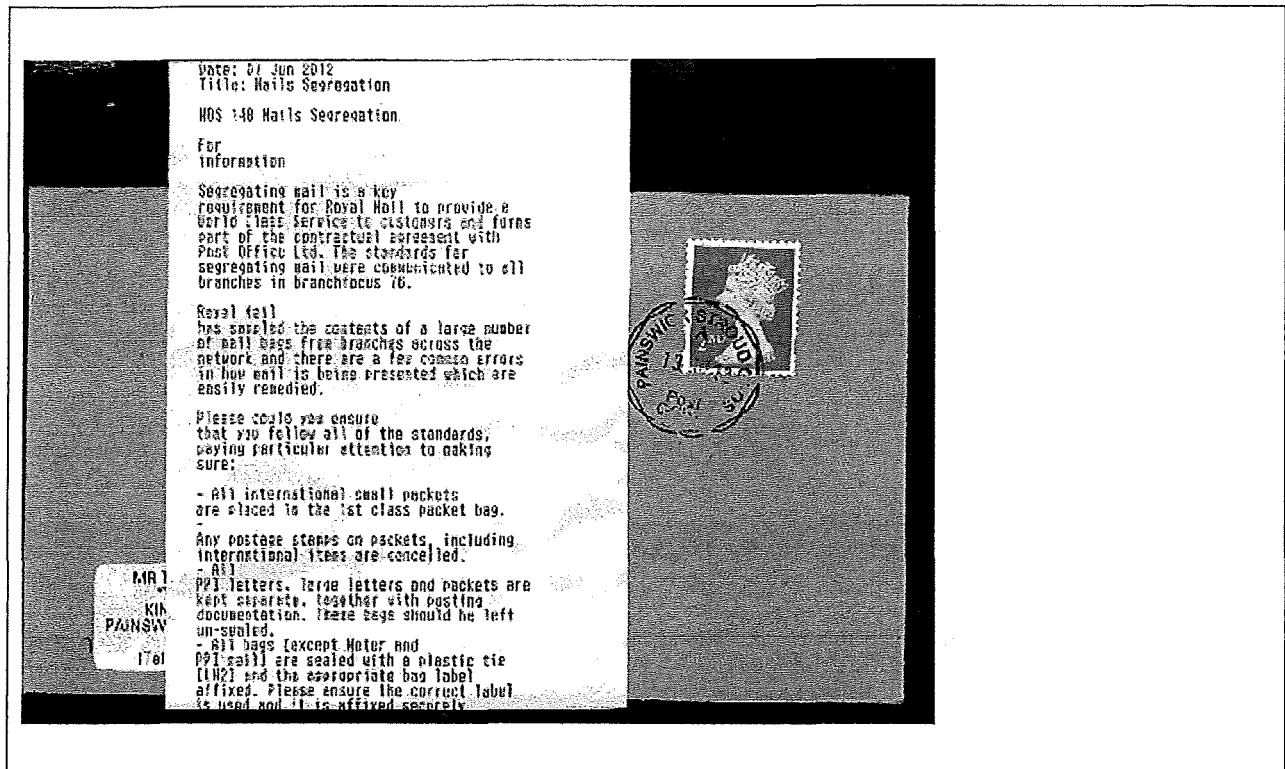
An audited list of realizations is given below. Prices are £'s

A -	B 14	C 6	D 10	E -	F 32
G 9	H 5	J 8	K 4	L 4	M 1
1 140	2 150	3 55	4 40	5 60	6 30
7 32	8 11	10 11	11 3	12 4	13 70
14 13	16 15	17 28	18 180	19 95	20 5
21 3	22 6	23 15	24 11	25 20	26 5
27 11	28 9	29 9	30 9	31 6	32 20
35 20	37 6	40 3	41 3	48 5	50 4
51 36	52 12	53 13	54 3	55 4	56 6
57 3	58 4	59 11	60 15	61 10	62 10
63 10	64 34	66 12	67 16	68 26	69 24
70 14	72 7	73 13	74 4	75 13	76 10
77 24	78 26	80 11	81 15	82 32	83 20
87 32	88 32	92 38	93 28	96 46	99 11
101 34	102 26	103 34	104 55	105 40	106 26
107 34	108 60	109 34	110 160	112 17	114 17
118 85	119 5	120 36	121 12	122 9	125 20
126 22	127 40	128 15	129 48	130 7	131 8
132 26	136 8	138 7	139 7	140 46	141 13
145 12	146 13	147 13	148 15	150 22	151 8
152 24	153 16	155 16	156 4	157 16	158 15
159 9	160 11	161 9	165 4	169 4	170 7
173 18	176 26	177 7	178 20	179 20	182 28
183 7	184 11	185 11	186 46	187 10	189 26
190 4	191 5	191 5	192 8	193 7	201 8
202 8	203 5	204 9	205 8	211 4	214 7
215 7	217 12	218 12	219 19	220 24	221 60
222 12	223 24	224 3	226 7	227 16	228 10
231 36	232 14	235 15	237 4	238 7	239 11
243 4	244 11	245 3	247 3	248 4	249 11
250 10	251 24	252 12	253 24	254 9	255 6
256 7	257 9	258 20	259 3	260 15	261 12
262 32	263 36	264 16	265 24	267 24	268 11
269 9	270 12	272 0	273 32	274 48	275 3
276 12	277 11	278 48	279 60	280 40	283 22
284 9	286 10	291 13	294 14	297 13	298 11
300 11	301 44	302 44	303 3	304 19	306 7
307 5	308 24	309 20	310 15	312 65	313 11
314 4	315 3	316 26	317 17	318 9	319 15
320 17	321 32	322 14	323 8	324 24	325 8
326 7	328 20	329 9	330 8	331 8	332 19
333 16	334 42	337 34	338 14	339 13	340 5
341 15	342 12	343 12	344 4	345 8	346 10
347 6	348 12	349 5	350 11	351 6	352 13
353 7	354 22	355 65	356 26	357 9	358 12
359 14	360 28	361 10	362 24	363 42	366 26
370 12	371 9	372 24	373 6		

STOP !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

READ NO FURTHER UNTIL YOU HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE COVER SHOWN BELOW.

Trevor Radway



Have you any comments, questions or observations ?

No ? Then I will elucidate.

For the last 10 years (or more) mail in Gloucestershire, whether posted in a box or handed in at a Post Office counter for Proof of Posting has been franked with a GLOUCESTERSHIRE machine cancel as part of the national scheme. Whether it is Chipping Campden or Stroud the postmark was the same.

175/8

On presenting a letter for the said Certificate of Posting last week I noticed the lovely lady used her handstamp to cancel the stamp and place it in a sack. My questions resulted in my "acquisition" of the notification you see.

"Date 07 June 2012 RDS 140 Mails Segregation

Segregating mail is a key requirement for Royal Mail to provide a World Class Service to customers and forms part of the contractual agreement with Post Office Ltd. The standards for segregating mail were communicated to all branches in branchfocus 76... etc etc ... Please could you ensure:

---- All International mail packets are placed in the 1st class packet bag. Any postage stamps on packets, including International items are cancelled. (my underscore)

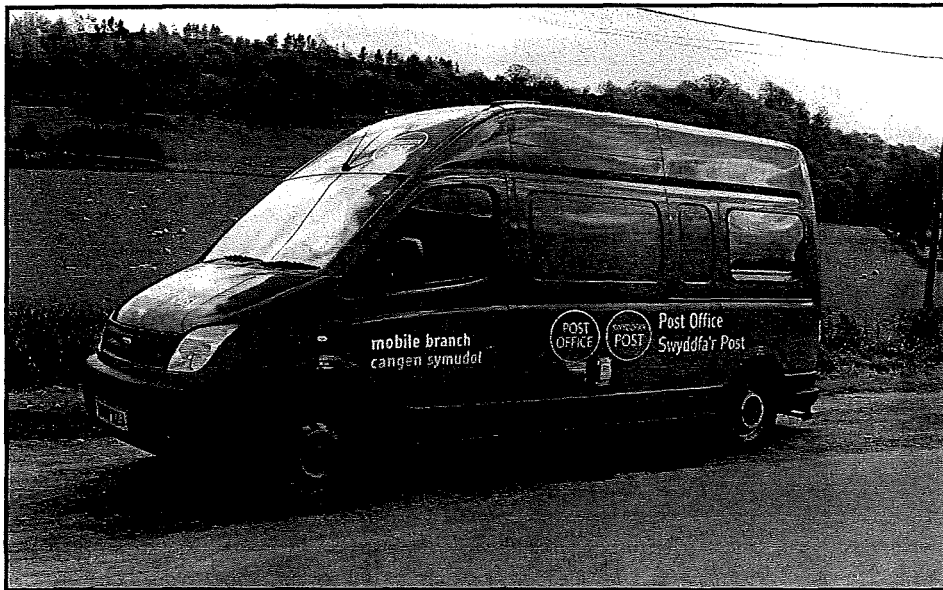
-----All PPI letters , large letters and packets are kept separate, together with posting documentation. These bags should be left un-sealed.

-----All bags (except Meter and PPI mail) are sealed with a plastic tie (LN2) and the appropriate bag label affixed

... ..Any questions contact 0845 6011022.

So there you are then. My 2nd class mail deposited with a Certificate of Posting (+ one to John Calladine) has been cancelled at my local Post Office again after a gap of MANY years. Whether the Instruction has been followed correctly I know not,
 "Everything changes, everything remains the same...." Or words to that effect.

Welcome to your Post Office



Outreach facility operated from Kington, Herefordshire, servicing villages in Herefordshire and across the border in Powys



Please make an orderly queue inside!

The South Salopian Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry

Guy Bridges

Illustrated is a printed letter from the South Salopian Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry Head Quarters, Shrewsbury, dated March 27th, 1854, ordering members of the regiment to assemble for permanent duty at Shrewsbury on 2nd May 1854 with all arms and appointments and horse etc.

The letter was addressed to Mr T.G.Smith, Farmer, Eaton Constantine, Salop, and posted at Shrewsbury on 30th March, 1854.

It was forwarded to Wroxeter Post Office where they struck their UDC on the reverse before delivery to Eaton Constantine, which did not have a Post Office at that time.

HEAD QUARTERS, SHREWSBURY,

MARCH 27th, 1854.

SIR,

HER MAJESTY has been pleased to order the South Salopian Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry, under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel the Earl of Powis, to assemble for PERMANENT DUTY, at Shrewsbury, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of May, 1854, and seven following days; I am directed by the Commanding Officer, to desire your attendance, mounted, and dressed in Parade Cap, White Trowsers, Stable Jacket, and fully accoutred on the Private Parade of your Troop, at Half-past Nine o'Clock, A. M. on that Morning. Each member will appear with his Arms and Appointments in good order, Horse neatly trimmed, and not under fourteen hands two inches high.

G. ROLLINGS,

ADJUTANT.

Pack, Saddle Bag, Sheepskin, Helmet, Coat, and Grey Trowsers, to be brought to Head Quarters.

N.B. Captain Burton's Troop will form the Picket the First Day.

N.B. Members having more than Ten Miles to march to Head Quarters, will be allowed to Parade at 2 o'Clock P. M. instead of Half-past 9 o'Clock A. M. on that day.

SOUTH SALOPIAN REGIMENT

OF

YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

It is expected that each Member of the above Regiment will, on receiving the following Arms, Clothing, and Accoutrements, keep them always in a state of readiness, both clean and in good repair; and on any Member quitting the Regiment, he will be expected (personally) to deliver every Article in a good state to the ADJUTANT, or pay the original cost of each Article deficient, viz.:-

Scarlet Coat	Head Collar
Buff Jacket	Breastplate
Grey Trowsers	Crupper
Helmet	Holsters, Saddle, and Straps
Stable Cap	Saddle Bag and Straps
Spoons	Pad
Sword, Sword Belt, and Knot	Cloak and Straps
Carbine	Sheepskin
Pouch, Belt, and Carbine Gling	Haversack
Brille and Curb	Carbine Bucket, Tube, and Strap

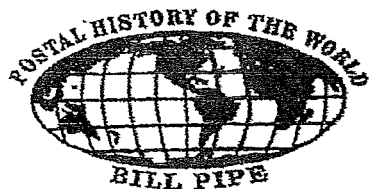
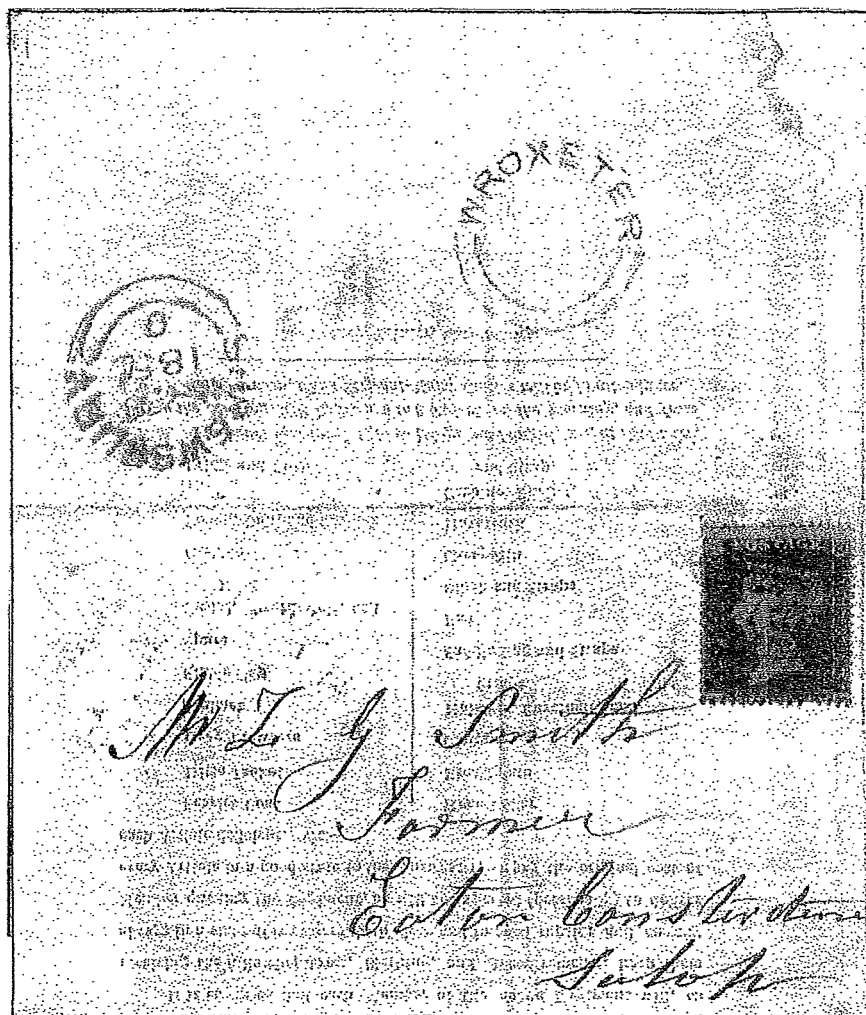
N.B. The hours appointed to have things exchanged, &c., at the Stores, during the Meeting, will be from 6 to 8 o'Clock in the morning, and from 4 to 6 in the afternoon, when Sergeant-Major Collins will be in attendance.

M. France, Printer, Shrewsbury.

*Received by Colonel Griffiths
George Head winning the first
Prize for Sword Exercise*

175/10

The recipient has written a footnote to the letter that the Yeomanry Cavalry was "Reviewed by Colonel Griffiths. George Head winning the first prize for Sword Exercise.



THE MAGPIE

POSTAL AUCTIONS & LISTS
POSTCARDS & EPHEMERA
PAPER COLLECTABLES
POSTAL HISTORY

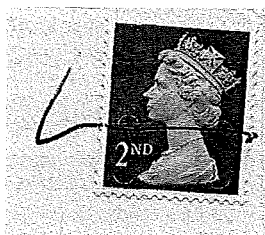
W.T. PIPE
7 Richard Close
Upton, Poole
Dorset
BH16 5PY

Tel: 01202 623300
Fax: 01202 631149
Web: www.magpiebillpipe.com
Email: magpiebillpipe@free.uk.com

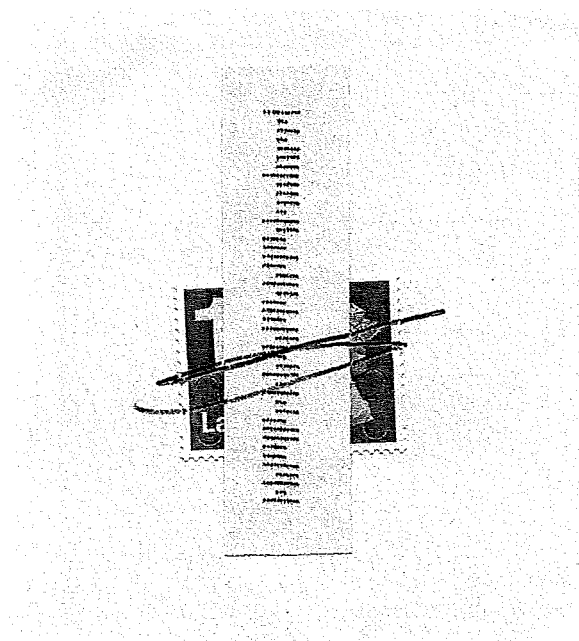
MODERN POSTAL HISTORY

John Calladine

One wonders what future generations of postal historians will think of modern cancellations. At a rough guess, about half the letters that arrive nowadays have no cancellation of the adhesive stamp. Do the perforated sections within the stamps provide adequate security protection against their mis-use? It is a point for Royal Mail to consider when postal charges rise to the levels threatened in the popular press.



Among those stamps that happen to be cancelled, the beloved “biro scribble cancel” is probably favoured. In a future British County Catalogue, it will probably be rated rarity ‘A’. It gives no indication of the date of posting, a factor the cynical may decide is not unintentional. Recent 1st class letters to London from Wiltshire have taken six days and nine days yet it simply cannot be proved. (Other letters have disappeared without trace but that is another story.)



A recent ‘find’ is illustrated above and takes the beloved biro cancel to new levels. Provisionally rated as rarity ‘D’, the “postcode cancel”, applied before the biro cancel, takes us back to the days before the duplex, when two cancelling operations were necessary. Will the postal historian of the 22nd century become excited? It seems unlikely but one supposes many Victorians would also find us marginally insane.

"For Letting Otherwise Than By The Mile", Royal Cypher W.R. - Printed on Bluish Paper.

Hire of horses was also taxed. Travellers undertaking long journeys often followed the post routes for convenience and safety, and they would hire horses from stage to stage as this permitted faster travelling.

From Tutor times, Post Masters and Inn Keepers provided horses at regular stages along the post roads, not only for the service of the Royal Post, but also for hire to private individuals. An act of 1711 gave the Postmaster General (and his agents) the monopoly for hiring horses for riding (though horses for pulling carriages and carts could still be operated privately). Private carriages and stage carriage were also taxed from 1747 to 1869. The agents who provided the horses had considerable autonomy but were responsible for keeping the service to a required standard, and, from 1779, for collecting the duty. The Act of 1779, imposed a Duty on top of the hire, and tickets were issued to show payment of the duty.

The ticket had to be carried by the traveller; some issues were overprinted with the name of the County or a district number as a control. All are imperforate.

Four main categories of ticket exist. Horses for riding could only be hired by the mile (Mileage Tickets, on which the duty was originally 1d per mile). Whereas draught horses could be hired by the mile, or by the day (Day Tickets). The user of a day Ticket was required to hand in his ticket at each staging post on the road for control purposes, and each time he would receive an Exchange Ticket to allow him to proceed. When a horse was hired for more than a day at a time, the second and subsequent days were exempt from tax, hence the need for Exemption Tickets and their corresponding Check Tickets (Exchange Tickets for Exemption Tickets).

STAMP OFFICE TICKET

For a Letting otherwise than by
the Mile.



TWO HORSES for _____ Days

Let the _____ day of _____ 18____

By _____

of _____

to go to _____

being _____ Miles.

Hired by _____

Of _____

Revolving stamp: Numeral '75' of Birmingham

By Ian Baker

Kirkwoods of Edinburgh Proof books show that their patent revolving stamp with '131' was first supplied to Edinburgh in October 1855 and that the numeral '75' obliterator was sent to Birmingham in August 1856. Black and blue inks were both used with the handstamp and it has been recorded in use between 16th October 1856 and 3rd March 1862.

In December 1856, the Postmaster General granted Mr John Gilchrist, a stamper at the G.P.O. in Edinburgh, £10 for his 'zeal and ingenuity in bringing to perfection a revolving obliterator stamp'. This was the first such award in Scotland.

The revolving stamp is here used to tie a block of eight 1d rose-red stamps (MA-ND) Plate 36 (SG40).



This late use of a one penny Mulready (stereo A173) was handed in at Five Ways (single ring MR 3 / 62) and received at Birmingham HO later that day (experimental single ring codes W / 5) where it was tied by the '75' revolving stamp. In Trowbridge it received a dated single arc mark (MR 4 / 62).



Cannock and it's Sub Offices
by
Brian Purcell

Although Bristol Postal History is my main interest, my interest in Cannock is due to being my home town. I moved to Bristol in 1970 and then shortly after when visiting a stamp fair in Bath, I found four 1d Red Covers cancelled by Stafford Duplex's with Cannock single ring CDS on reverse. At that time Cannock would back stamp the covers as the Office of Posting. On arrival at Head Office the stamps were cancelled with Stafford Duplex before sorting and then forwarded to their destination. Over almost 40 years of searching, very little Cannock Postal History came to light. In 2010 a well known postal history dealer mentioned he had purchased a collection of Staffordshire postal history, I managed to purchase the small Cannock section. It did add some items to my collection but it was all post 1900. No Sub-offices were included. I then contacted Richard Farman, our Staffordshire County Editor for any information he had on the Post Office. He sent me photocopies of what he had which expanded on my Postmark Listing.

Next I contacted Ken Smith who has records of all U.K Post Office opening and closing dates. From the copy of Staffordshire Offices I was able to extract the listing of Cannock and it's sub-offices which are detailed following this introduction. Ken passed me on to John Forster, who following on from his father's collection, has formed one of the largest collections of postmarks in the country. Additions from Ken and John expanded my records further.

Whilst I have now recorded 100 postmarks from these Post Offices, I feel there are more to find including examples from some Offices where we have none recorded.

My next task will be to publish details of all the Postmarks I have recorded. Before I do so, I need your help with further information. Please check your collections of any Cannock or Sub-Offices Postmark from the Offices listed, cancelling the stamps or transit marks on the back of covers. Any further information will be added to my own records for publication in this journal in the near future.

CANNOCK

Established 1822 as Receiving Office of the Walsall Penny Post. 21st May 1855 transferred to Rugeley. 2nd August 1856 transferred to Walsall. By January 1857 became a Telegraph Office using Code CBK. 11th March 1859 transferred to Stafford. 17th March 1903 became an Independent Post Town. August 1920 came back under Stafford. 1st February 1932 reverted to Independent Post Town.

CANNCK CHASE FIELD POST OFFICE

A Field Post Office was opened 18th August to 13th September 1873.

BELT ROAD

Opened 2nd January 1935 as a Sub-Office of Hednesford. In July 1968 became a Sub-Office of Cannock. Closed 7th April 2003.

BIDEFORD WAY

Opened by 1964 as a Sub-Office of Cannock.

BLACKFORDS

Opened by January 1924 as Non Money Order and Savings Bank office closed in 1935.

BRIDGTOWN

Opened 1st May 1884 as a Money Order and Savings Bank Office under Stafford. Became a Telegraph Office 3rd July 1888 using code BTV. 17th March 1903 became a Rural PO under Cannock 13th March 1906 became a Sub-Office with new Telegraph Code of ZBE Closed 12th February 2004.

CHADSMOOR

Opened 1st July 1882 as a Money Order and Saving Bank Office under Stafford. MO and SB discontinued 1st August, re-established 1st September 1882.

CHURCHBRIDGE

Opened 1855 under Walsall 11th March 1859 transferred to Stafford. 1st May 1884 closed and replaced by Bridgtown Post Office. Re-established 1934 as a Sub=Office of Cannock. Closed some time between 1841-46.

FIVE WAYS

Opened in 1876 as a Sub-Office of Hednesford. 1st December 1877 became a Money Order and Saving Bank Office under Stafford. 8th February 1903 re-named Heath Hayes.

GREEN HEATH

Opened 1892 under Stafford. By 1906 Sub-Office of Hednesford. Closed 1916.

HAZEL SLADE

Opened by July 1890 under Stafford. 17th March 1903 came under Hednesford. August 1920 reverted back to Stafford. 3rd February 1932 came back under Cannock.

HEATH HAYES

Opened 8th February 1903 (ex Five Ways) under Stafford. 17th March 1903 came under Cannock. 28th April 1903 became a Telegraph Office using Code HYY. Became a Sub-Office in 1960.

HEDNESFORD

Opened 1855 under Rugeley. Transferred to Walsall in 1856 and then to Stafford in 1859. 1st July 1871 became a Money Order and Savings Bank Office and by 1873 became a Telegraph Office using code HHK. 17th March 1903 became a Town Post Office, 1920 came under Stafford. 21st March 1932 became a Town Post Office again. 1968 name changed to Market Street, Hednesford under Cannock. 4th February 2010 reverted back to Hednesford located in Co-op Store.

HEDNESFORD CAMP

Open 16th March 1942 as a Telegraph Office using Code HIS under Hednesford. Closed 14th August 1948. Re-established 20th September 1948. Closed early 1958.

HIGH TOWN

Opened 1891 under Stafford. 17th March 1903 became a Sub-Office under Cannock, by 1908 Sub-Office under Hednesford. From 1964 re-named Hightown. July 1968 became Sub-Office under Cannock. Closed 1983.

HUNTINGTON

Opened 1899 under Stafford. 22nd May 1900 became a Telegraph Office using Code HUL. 1st April 1901 became Money Order and Savings Bank Office. By January 1913 came under Hednesford. August 1920 transferred to Stafford and 1st February 1932 transferred to Cannock.

HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD

Opened 1931 as Sub-Office of Cannock. Closed 1973.

LITTLEWORTH

Opened 1907 under Hednesford. July 1968 came Sub-Office of Cannock. Closed 1975.

MARKET STREET HEDNESFORD

1968 change of Office name, formerly Hednesford. Closed 1st February 2010, re-opened as Hednesford 4th February 2010.

NORTON

Opened by 1877 under Stafford. 1st July 1883 name changed for Norton Canes.

NORTON CANES

Opened 1st July 1883 (ex Norton) as a Money Order and Savings Bank Office. 17th March 1903 became a Telegraph Office with Code NOG under Cannock. August 1908 came under Stafford and reverted back to Cannock 1st February 1932.

NORTON EAST

Opened by 1941 under Cannock.

OLD HEDNESFORD

Opened 1896 under Stafford. 17th March became Sub-Office of Hednesford.. July 1968 became Sub-Office of Cannock. Closed 12th July 1985.

PYE GREEN

Opened 1933 under Hednesford. July 1968 became Sub-Office under Cannock.

PYE GREEN ROAD

Opened 1925 as Sub-Office under Cannock. 1980 replaced by St Aidens.

RAWNSLEY

Opened 1899 under Stafford. 17th March 1903 became Sub-Office of Hednesford. August 1920 came under Stafford. 1st February 1932 came under Cannock. Closed 1973.

ST AIDENS

Opened 1st August 1980. Closed 14th August 2008.

ST JOHN'S ROAD

Opened by 1941 as Sub-Office of Cannock. Closed 1974.

Further information would be appreciated – Brian Purcell, PO Box 749, Worcester WR4 0UR
Tel. 01905 452415

With acknowledgement for their help to Richard Farman and Ken Smith.

STATION ROAD

Opened 1930 as Sub-Office of Hednesford. July 1968 became Sub-Office of Cannock. Closed 10th March 2004.

STATION STREET

Opened by 1876 as Sub-Office of Hednesford under Stafford.

WEDGES MILLS

Opened by June 1938 under Cannock. Closed 24th April 2002.

WEST CANNOCK

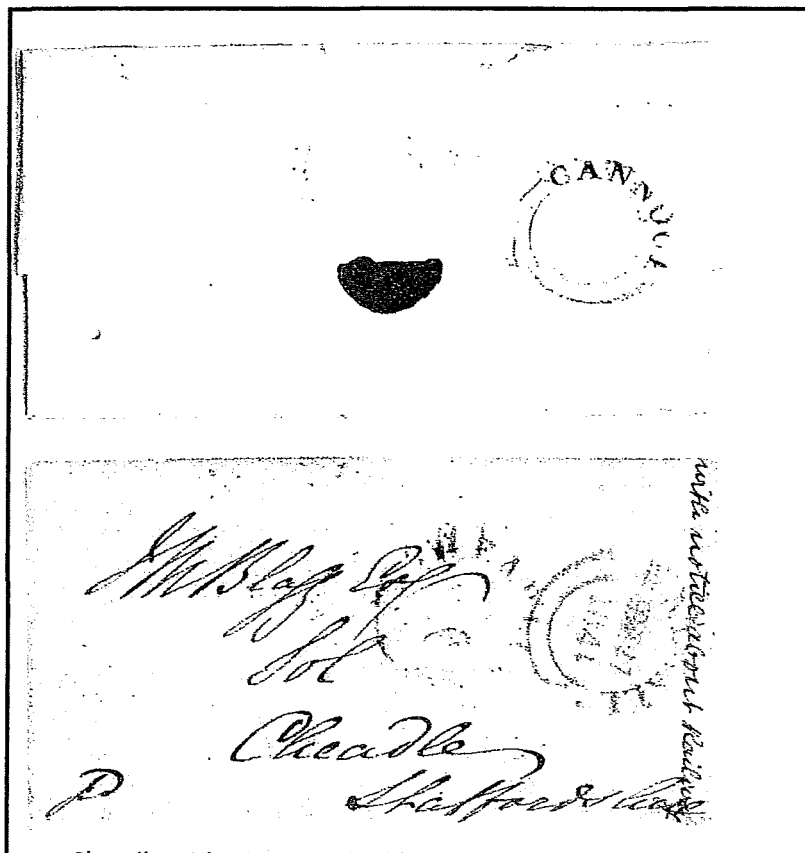
Opened 1896 as Sub-Office of Hednesford. 1st April 1898 became Money Order and Savings Bank Office. Closed 1916.

WEST HILL

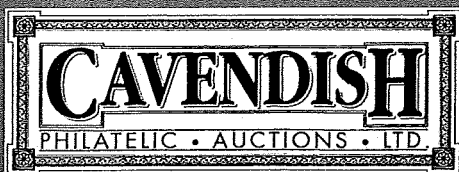
Opened by Aril 1920 as Sub-Office of Hednesford. July 1968 became Sub-Office of Cannock. Closed 10th March 2004.

WIMBLEBURY

Opened by July 1890 under Stafford. 17th March 1903 came under Hednesford. August 1920 came under Stafford. 1st February 1932 came under Cannock.



1844 entire to Cheadle with Walsall double arc cds in red and Cheadle arrival double arc cds in black. On reverse Cannock undated circle.

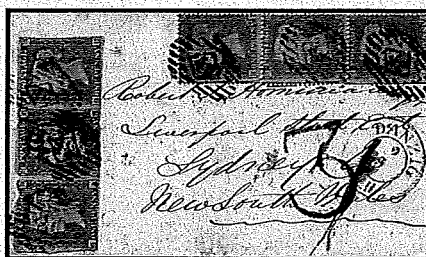


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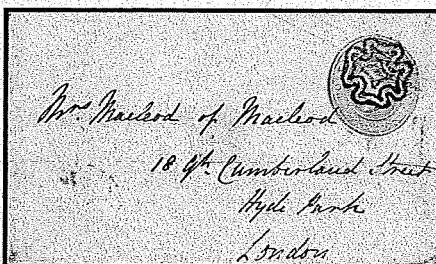
Plate 10 used block of 4



A recently discovered mixed issue cover from the Crimea to Australia



Plate 10 unmounted mint block of 16



Distinctive Kilmarnock MX on cover to London



Pearson Hill cancellation

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May Meeting

This meeting was held in conjunction with Worpex on 12th May the theme of the afternoon displays was Uniform Fourpenny Post and Uniform Penny Post and was led by Malcolm Allison. Our Chairman, Mel Matthews was unable to be present as he had recently had an operation to replace a knee joint, the members present joined in sending good wishes to Mel for a speedy recovery.

The displays were outstanding and the question was raised "Where could you see such a great proportion of known 'handstruck 4's' in one room at the same time"? The answer being – The M.P.H. meeting at Worpex.

I am extremely grateful to members who let me have a summary of their display, it has been suggested that in future for accuracy and ease of reporting that this be done for all future reports. A list of items shown is all that is necessary, any comments of particular interest being appreciated.

Malcolm Allison began the afternoon "at the beginning" by showing an example of the Postage Duties Act of 17th August 1839, which gave the Treasury the power to set postal rates until October 1840. He then moved on to November 1839 and showed the Post Office Notice announcing the introduction of Uniform Fourpenny postage "on and after 5th December 1839". This Notice is rare, with only three copies known in private hands.

Malcolm then showed a total of 19 handstruck '4's' from some of the only 66 Post Offices that are recorded as using them during the Uniform Fourpenny period. We saw second and third day marks from Edinburgh and Aberdeen respectively, followed by Glasgow, Galashiels (earliest recorded), Dundee and Stonehaven (earliest recorded). Leith and Haddington, both in blue, completed the Scottish section. Curiously the Leith mark in blue is normal for that Office (and is the only Penny Post office to have a '4'), yet Haddington in blue is the only recorded copy, together with it being the earliest known example from there.

The Midland counties were well represented with marks from Chester (unrecorded date), Leominster, Kington (one of only two known – and Roger Broomfield just happened to bring along the other one!- (see later in the report.) Nottingham (an unrecorded date) and Worcester, which also exhibited a boxed 'No 2' of Powick. Malcolm also showed a manuscript '4' of Worcester on another item for comparison (again showing a boxed 'No2' of Powick) which proved that whilst offices had these '4' handstamps they were not used consistently. The only Midlands Post Office not shown sadly was Whitchurch in Shropshire, but many others from outside of the Midlands were sufficient to interest everyone. Marks from Wakefield (unrecorded date), Ipswich (latest recorded date) and Carlisle (last day of use and also an recorded date) completed the display and set the afternoon off to a flying start..

Roger Broomfield showed "the other Kington handstruck 4" together with a Sub-Deputy's Bill from Kington dated 23rd December 1839, a free front from Hereford dated 5th December 1839, the first day of the 4d post. An entire from Brighton to Hampton Court with Leominster Penny Post on the front but the letter came entirely free of charge even the 1d local penny post was not charged, it is dated 5th December 1839. other 4d post covers included Kington to Stourbridge, Bromyard to Ludlow both bearing Ms. 4's. Kington to Ludlow had the handstruck 4 dated 30th December 1839, A 4d letter from Ledbury to Tewkesbury has red Ms 4 to indicate prepayment. Uniform Penny Post period was represented by Kington Ms Pd 1 dated 10th January 1840, first day of UPP. A letter from Ledbury to Ludlow dated 18th June, 1840, had the handstruck '1' of Ledbury. The handstruck 4 of Leominster to Ludlow dated 23rd

December, 1839., also from Leominster this time to Ledbury had the handstruck 2 indicating postage due. Ross was represented by a letter from Ross to Ludlow with Ms 1 in red with a circular Paid at Ross and finally a letter from Ross to Henley in Arden with a handstruck 2 indicating postage due.

Chris Jackson was next in line to display. Uniform 4d. postage included a second day 4d. followed by handstruck 4 of Worcester, which coincidentally, was the same date as that displayed by Malcolm Allison. A free sent in the 4d period was followed by a last day uniform 4d letter sent by a local vicar, an acknowledgement of a life insurance policy he had held since October 1839 which was sent on the last day before he would have had to pay for the postage. A front which was the first day of the uniform 1d and a House of Commons envelope which replaced the free system when it ceased on the introduction of the UPP. Chris's second display he displayed 1d blacks, 2d blues, 1d and 2d Mulready envelopes and 1d reds. Of special significance were a pair of 2d Mulready envelopes, one with a red maltese cross and the other with a black maltese cross. Of the 1d blacks a cover from London in 1840 with a 1d black cancelled with a red maltese cross had been turned and used again in 1841 where it was used with a pair of 1d blacks (letters MA-MB) and cancelled with a black maltese cross.

Mick Gill showed a London Bye Post letter to Newark from Tottenham posted on 10th December 1839 endorsed Post Pd 3 by the sender but with a red Paid handstamp and red manuscript 4 alongside. A letter from Carlton on Trent to London with a 13th December Newark datestamp, another to Newark from Hampstead Rd in the London Twopenny Post dated 19th December, a very fine Newark/Penny Post strike with ms. 1 on a letter from Girton to Newark on 21st December, a letter from Newark to Gamston of 23rd December and another London Twopenny Post from Hackney Rd NE to Carlton on Trent dated 2nd January 1840, To complete his display there was a letter from Mansfield to Wollaton, Nottingham, endorsed Paid with P1 in red and clearly dated 10th January but with no other postal markings to determine if it was indeed posted that day. Finally a letter from Lincoln to Beckingham, near Newark, with a ms. 1 in red posted on 12th April 1840.

Alan Marshall showed the earliest 2 (9th & 10th December 1839) of the 11 recorded handstruck 4's of Nottingham, and a manuscript 4 Loughborough to Nottingham. 6 examples of the 10 recorded of the 8mm Pd 1d with dots under the 'd', January 11th to March 19th 1840 and only 1 example of a 7mm Pd 1d without dots of 29th February. A manuscript 1 in red to London 25th February and a manuscript P1 on an entire with a Keyworth 109 mileage, Derby CDS and by the railway to Nottingham 14th April 1840.

Clive Jones showed us 2 boards of Yorkshire material with a wide selection of marks including handstruck 2 of York and a great many covers of the period all with different marks.

John Soer commented that while Yorkshire had a surfeit of handstruck charge marks from c.1849 the same could not be said of Leicestershire which had only one. He began with Uniform Fourpenny Post items sent from Hinckley and Market Harborough. This was followed by letters showing manuscript charges of one penny in one of which "What poor shabby things these Stamps and Envelopes are"! John then showed a cover with the handstruck 2 of Loughborough on a letter to Nottingham. Finally came Mulreadys, penny blacks and twopenny blues on cover. One of the blues had corner letters 'M' and 'A' of particular interest to one member present,

Richard Farman showed a variety of material from Staffordshire including a Money Letter charged 8d. He commented that Foreign Mail stayed as it had been prior to 5th December 1839. He also showed a photocopy of the Notice announcing the introduction of the Uniform 4d postage.

Stuart Geddes showed material from Monmouthshire including 4d letters from Crucorney, Pontypool and Abergavenny, 2d and 4d letters from Newport and an Abergavenny 'P1' in black in place of the usual red.

Paul Bradshaw showed material including a Mulready from Nottingham to St Neots, a 2d envelope to the Dean of Peterborough Cathedral, Mulready envelopes from Claxton and Walford together with a variety of Postal Stationery.

Guy Bridges showed material from Shrewsbury including a 1d Pink to Llangollen which had been uprated to 2d. He then showed stationery used at Post Offices including Telegrams including one sent within Shrewsbury with the message "Can see you here today cannot go to Shrewsbury".

I think it can safely be said that this was a very successful meeting with such a wealth of material on display.. Thanks are due to Malcolm Allison for organizing the meeting and setting the subject., also to all members who showed us their material. Thank you to everyone who sent illustrations of their material, unfortunately space did not allow for their inclusion but they have been put on file for future use.

My own collection (Radnorshire) contains letter with a ms. 4!

I would like to thank all members who let me have a summary of their display, this allows this allows for a much fuller and more accurate report for the benefit of members unable to attend. My notes on the other displays cannot reflect the material shown, so in future I would ask all members who delight us with their material to let me have a summary however brief either by email or snail mail, alternatively it can be handed to me at a meeting.

Please send all material for Midland Mail to me, Sadie Cole, Pool House, Discoed, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2NW or sadiecole@mypostoffice.co.uk

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The Public Notice Announcing Introduction of Uniform 4d Post

PRINTED NOTICE
OF
UNIFORM FOURPENNY POSTAGE
November 1839
(Reduced 5th December 1839)

Nov 1839

The new reduced Scale of Postage will come into operation on and after the 5th of December.

The highest Charge for Postage for an Inland General Post Letter, not exceeding Half an Ounce in Weight, will be Fourpence. Where the Rate is now less, the Public will have the benefit of it.

The Postage on a Letter, not exceeding Half an Ounce in Weight, when sent by Packet between this Country and the British Colonies, (except to India and Ceylon), will be One Shilling.

For Foreign Letters and Ship Letters, and for the Scale according to which Letters of greater Weights than Half an Ounce are to be charged, see the Notices to the Public which have been circulated by the Post Office.

All Letters exceeding an Ounce in Weight, (except such as are addressed to France) must have the Postage paid in advance, or they will become liable to Double the Sum that would otherwise have to be paid on them.

No Letters above the Weight of Sixteen Ounces (with a few exceptions specified in the Post Office Notice) will be forwarded to their Destination, if such Letters therefore are Posted, they will be sent to the Dead Letter Office, and returned to the Writers.